

amendment. Therefore, no narrowing amendment is presently being made. The full scope of protection offered by the doctrine of equivalents should therefore be provided to claims 1 through 103. Applicants respectfully request that new claims 10 through 103 be added and the application considered for allowance.

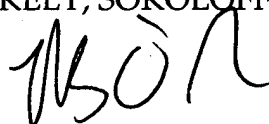
REMARKS

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Robert B. O'Rourke at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 4/20, 2001



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